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LIBERIA.

Report of plague on West Coast of Africa.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Monrovia, Liberia, June 7, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the intelligence that while at the executive mansion this afternoon (the occasion being the reception of the newly appointed Netherlands' consul, J. Vieweg, esq., by his excellency the President and the cabinet) I learned that the French Ivory Coast Colony of the West Coast of Africa is infested with a most dreadful plague—something similar to the recent bubonic plague of India. It is having a most fatal effect upon those who are unfortunately attacked. It is reported that between 200 and 300 persons, including three European physicians, have recently fallen victims of the dreaded disease at Grand Bassam, French Ivory Coast Colony, adjacent to Liberia on the east and British Gold Coast Colony on the west. The trend of the disease is eastward. All homeward-bound German steamers are quarantined against taking any African passengers to Germany.

Yours, respectfully,
 The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

OWEN L. W. SMITH.

MEXICO.

Weekly report from Mexico City.

MEXICO, MEXICO, *July 4, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make my weekly report as follows: As stated in my letter to you of July 3, it was my intention to start to-day for San Luis Potosi, Monterey, and Tampico, but after calling with the consul-general upon the governor of the federal district of Mexico, whose cooperation the ambassador informed us was absolutely necessary to successful quarantine work in the Republic, I was informed that permission to operate in Mexico would probably be granted by the secretary of the interior by Wednesday (July 5th). The result of this is a delay of three days in the establishing of inspecting and disinfecting stations at Monterey and San Luis Potosi. As far as the City of Mexico is concerned everything is ready with the exception of the identification coupons and baggage tags. The identification of passengers from Vera Cruz, however, presents a great many difficulties, as the inclosed letter from Acting Assistant Surgeon Hodgson will show. I find that my original plan of making out lists daily of hotel arrivals in Mexico and Vera Cruz and forwarding them to the officers on the frontier will have to be adopted. This, of course, will not be entirely efficient, but it is the only plan possible under the conditions here. I inclose a copy of the circular issued at my request by the Mexican Railway Company. I would respectfully suggest that the sanitary inspectors be directed to enforce their rules to the limit, as by this means the railroads may be brought to see the urgent need of quicker action in getting ready for the identification plan. As soon as the railroads print their blanks, I will send the Texas frontier inspectors all the details necessary to complete operations.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 1, 1899.

SIR: In reply to yours of June 29, which was received to-day, will state that I have seen the agents here of both the Mexican and the Interoceanic railroads and asked them for their cooperation in ascertaining the names and destination of passengers from this place. This they claimed was not within their power, but suggested that for a consideration the conductors would furnish the agent in the City of Mexico with the names of passengers from Vera Cruz to the city. Not being authorized or in a position to offer a compensation for the assistance of the conductors, and placing no reliance on their reports, I have dictated a copy of the inclosed letter to the superintendents of the two railroads. In reference to your memorandum relative to Mr. Body and disinfection, will state that in an interview with him I learned that Pearson & Sons have sent him a superheating steam disinfecting outfit, but it has not yet arrived. Mr. Body has nothing to do with the railroads, but is willing to assist me in any way that he can. From a railroad official I learned that the conductors would not be likely to report any names of passengers except those that had purchased through tickets. Cash fares and deadheads would not be reported for various reasons. For the past two months I have tried to find a passenger for the States via railroad but have not been successful.

I have asked the assistance of the railroad officials, and have spoken to several who I thought contemplated the trip, but always without success. The prevalent opinion seems to be that the quarantine is an American institution of annoyance, established solely for the inconvenience of the Mexican public, and it is their duty to beat it if they can.

The fever report for the past month is as follows: Four hundred and seventy-one cases and 191 deaths. The daily number of cases and deaths fluctuates considerably, but the weekly average shows no indication of a let up in the epidemic. The disease has made its appearance among the shipping, but is at present confined to one Spanish sailing vessel. The result of the communication with the railroad superintendents I will forward you immediately upon receipt.

Respectfully, yours,

SAM'L H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report on the inspection service in Mexico City.

MEXICO, MEXICO, July 10, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that our work of identification of passengers and disinfection of suspected baggage goes into formal operation to-day. Up to the present time we have inspected and issued certificates to 43 passengers. In addition to this number, 2 passengers were passed after disinfection of baggage, and 3 passengers are being detained here prior to disinfection of baggage. Express packages from infected points carried by the Interoceanic Express Company will be disinfected here; those carried by Wells Fargo Company will be disinfected by Sanitary Inspector Alexander at El Paso, Tex. I leave to-morrow for San Luis Potosi, and will report on the conditions at that place.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Instructions to acting assistant surgeon at Monterey.

MONTEREY, MEXICO, July 13, 1899.

SIR: I have this day nominated you as an inspector, United States Marine-Hospital Service, at Monterey, Mexico, subject to the approval of the Supervising Surgeon-General, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Your duties will be as follows:

First. You will endeavor in every way to keep me informed as to the health status of the city of Monterey.